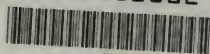


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CIRCULAR.

BUREAU OF CONSCRIPTION,
Richmond, Va., Nov. 13, 1863.

It appears from reports of officers on conscription duty, that the purpose and spirit of the Circular of September 23d, 1863, issued from this bureau, have been misunderstood by persons holding substitute papers, and that in consequence of such mis-understanding they hesitate, and sometimes refuse to surrender their papers for the purpose of having their genuineness and validity ascertained.

Enrolling officers and others charged with the collection and forwarding of such papers will, when parties hesitate or object to surrender them, be careful to impress upon them that the means instituted by said Circular for ascertaining the validity of the papers, were designed as well for the convenience of the parties holding them as the government, and to prevent them from being subjected to unnecessary harassment, litigation and expense.

The certificate required to be given by the officer upon receiving the original papers, will protect the party even more fully than the original papers, because it secures to him entire exemption from molestation during the period his papers are in the hands of the government for examination.

Parties whose papers are valid have no reason to fear such an examination, and those who have acted in good faith, but who have been made the dupes and victims of designing knaves, will not hesitate, upon having the matter fairly explained to them, to aid the government by all the means in their power in bringing the offenders to justice.

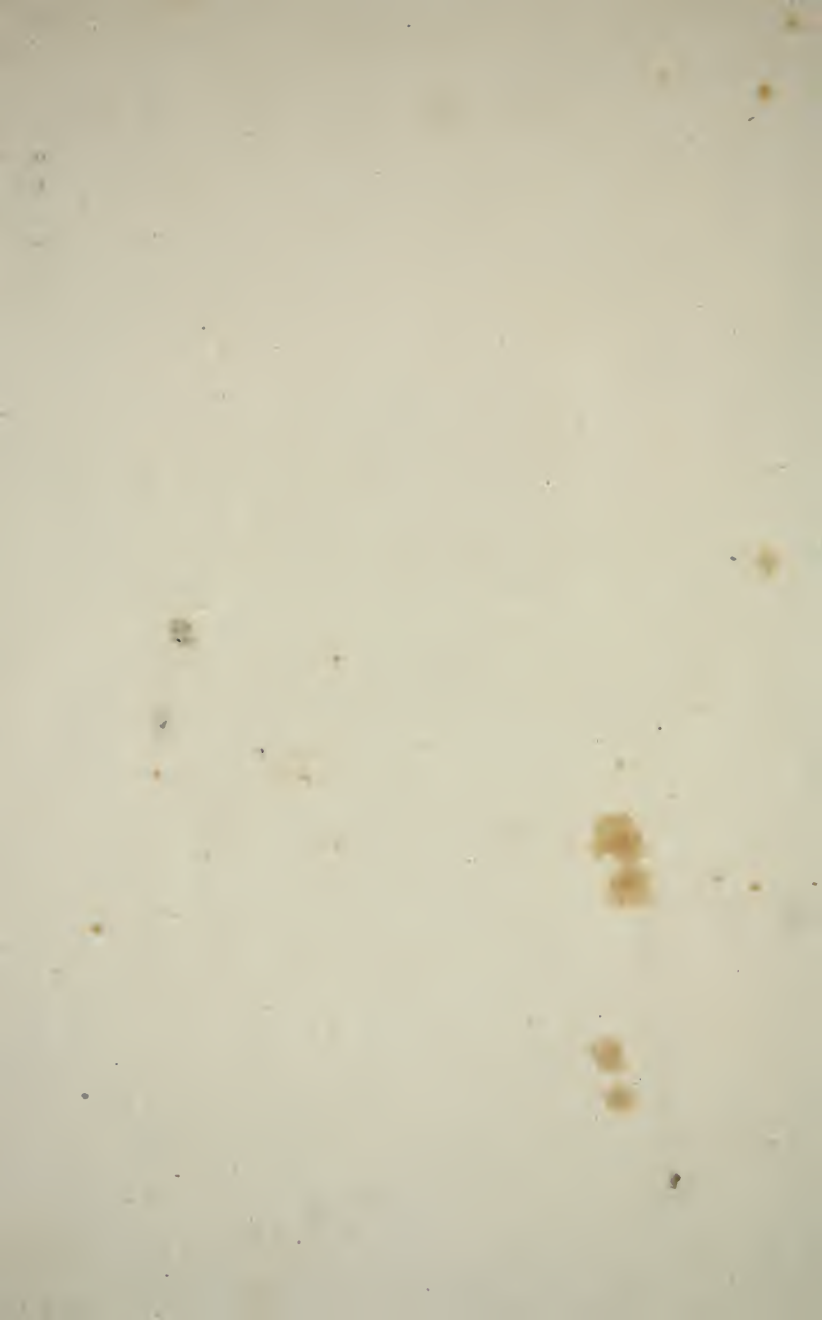
Those who have papers which they know to be fraudulent may object to such an investigation, and refuse to part with them.

The rule of the bureau was not established for the benefit of those who have aided in or connived at fraud, but for parties who have acted in innocence and good faith.

These views will be presented kindly and courteously by the officers; and if the parties then persist in refusing to surrender their papers, no alternative will be left to the officers but to arrest the parties and send them to the nearest camp of instruction, in order that the papers may be examined into, and the claim of the party to his discharge may be decided.

By order of Col. J. S. PRESTON, Supt

P. N. PAGE,
Capt. & A. A. G.





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